

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155127

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 4819 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 2 .

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4819

NODIS

FOR NSC BRZEZINSKI FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US

SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT

1. RABBI ARTHUR HERTZBERG HAS ASKED ME TO PASS TO YOU THE RESULTS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN, AND SOME OTHER IMPRESSIONS HE HAS GLEANED ABOUT THE SITUATION HERE FROM OTHER MEETINGS HE HAS BEEN HAVING. HERTZBERG'S CONCLUSIONS FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN INTENDS TO ASK FOR A PRIVATE MEETING WITH YOU DURING HIS VISIT, AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS IMPORTANCE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 155127

3. "BEGIN HAS BEHIND HIM AT THIS POINT A NATIONAL CONSENSUS, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH PERES AND YADIN, NOT TO PERMIT HIMSELF OR ISRAEL TO BE 'PUSHED AROUND' BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE VISIT."

4. "BEGIN WILL NOT BE CARRYING A PIECE OF THE WEST

BANK WITH HIM WHEN HE COMES TO THE U.S." (I INTERPRET WHAT HERTZBERG IS SAYING HERE TO MEAN THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE BEGIN WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE COMMITMENTS ABOUT WITHDRAWAL ON THE WEST BANK WHICH WE CERTAINLY WILL BE SEEKING.)

5. BEGIN WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON "NOT JUST TO NEGOTIATE, BUT ALSO TO EDUCATE."

6. A PROBABLE BEGIN TACTIC IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE TO SAY IN EFFECT: "THE U.S. HAS ADDED THE CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREED ON IN RESOLUTION 242. I AM PREPARED TO INTERPRET 242 AS REQUIRING SOME WITHDRAWAL ON THE WEST BANK IF THE U.S. RETURNS TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF 242 AND DROPS THE EMPHASIS NOT CONTAINED THEREIN ON THE 'HOMELAND'."

7. HERTZBERG IS CONVINCED THAT YADIN WILL JOIN THE CABINET. FROM A PRIVATE DINNER CONVERSATION BETWEEN YADIN AND PERES AT WHICH HERTZBERG WAS PRESENT, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT YADIN'S ULTIMATE REASON FOR HIS CURRENT TENDENCY TO JOIN IS HIS FEAR OF WAR -- AND HIS FEAR OF THE "LACK OF JUDGMENT OF THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE INNER FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY CABINET." HERTZBERG SAYS THAT AT THIS DINNER PERES WAS URGING YADIN THAT BOTH THE DMC AND LABOR SHOULD JOIN AS A BLOC TO ENTER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 155127

THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO HAVE ENOUGH WEIGHT TO CONDITION BEGIN'S DECISIONS, BUT TRYING DESPERATELY TO PERSUADE YADIN NOT TO GO IN ALONE. YADIN WAS REPORTEDLY NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIS ARGUMENT.

8. COMMENT: I WANT TO STRESS AGAIN THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE IS HERTZBERG'S VIEW BASED ON HIS CONVERSATION. ALL OF IT IS PLAUSIBLE, BUT NEEDS FURTHER CONFIRMATION IN THE DAYS AHEAD, WHICH WE WILL OF COURSE BE SEEKING. I WILL BE SEEING BEGIN NEXT WEEK PRIVATELY, PROBABLY JULY 7, AND WILL BE DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE SURE BEGIN UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS EXPECTED WHEN HE COMES TO WASHINGTON. I HAVE ALREADY GONE OVER THIS GROUND IN DETAIL WITH DAYAN, WHO HAS REPORTED FULLY TO BEGIN (SEE SEPTTEL). THAT CONVERSATION, REINFORCED BY MONDAY'S PUBLIC STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON, AND SEVERAL DETAILED ISRAELI PRESS ACCOUNTS OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS OF WHAT BEGIN WOULD BE ASKED IN WASHINGTON, CAN LEAVE LITTLE AMBIGUITY IN HIS MIND AT THE PRESENT. THERE CERTAINLY WILL BE NONE BY THE TIME HE DEPARTS.
LEWIS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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